THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) and (b) During the last five years (1996-97 to 2000-01), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has drilled 104 number of exploratory and 9 development wells in the State of Tamil Nadu. The details of exploratory and development wells drilled, district-wise are given below:-

SI. No.	District	Exploratory Wells	Development Wells
1.	Pudukottai	2	—
2.	Thiruvarur	47	5
3.	Nagapattinam	31	4
4.	Ramnad	15	—
5.	Cuddalore	4	—
6.	Tanjore	5	—
	Total	104	9

(c) In addition to above, ONGC is actively engaged in exploration for hydrocarbons in the coastal areas of Ramnathapuram district. Further, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for six exploration blocks in Cauvery offshore, off the coast of Tamil Nadu have already been signed with different National and Private oil companies, which include two blocks awarded in the first round and two blocks awarded in the second round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Some exploration blocks in deep waters off the coast of Tamil Nadu are also being contemplated to be offered in future rounds under NELP.

Performance of oil PSUs

3012. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil PSUs have performed better than other sectors during 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(b) if so, the profit generated year-wise against paid up capital and how much amount was contributed each year as dividend to National Exchequer by these PSUs;

(c) whether with total refining capacity of 112.54 MMTPA, the country is now self-reliant in refining and by releasing 1.95 crore LPG connections, they have created history in public services; and

(d) if so, how much contribution this oil sector has made towards relief and rehabilitation assistance to the victims of the Gujarat earthquake and Prime Minister's Relief Funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2000-01 Oil PSUs have performed better than the other sectors. Paid up capital, profit after tax and dividend paid by the Oil PSUs during the year 2000-01 are given in the Statement *(See* below).

Final accounts for the year 2001-02 have not yet become due.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Oil PSUs provided relief and rehabilitation assistance of the order of Rs. 40 crore to Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gujarat earthquake victims.

Statement

Performance of Oil PSUs during 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the company	2000-2001		
	Paid up Capital	Net Profit	Dividend Paid
1	2	3	4
ONGC	1,42,593	5,22,878	1,56,853
IOC	77,867	2,72,033	73,974
GAIL	84,565	1,12,617	33,826
HPCL	33,900	1,08,801	33,933

1	2	3	4
BPCL	30,000	83,266	22,500
OIL	21,400	46,736	14,267
EIL	5,616	12,568	3,763
CPCL	14,900	12,243	3,705
KRL	13,817	10,946	2,902
IBP	2,215	5,422	2,215
NRL	73,563	2,160	*
BRPL	19,982	-5,744	—
jBiecco Lawrie	4,200	-867	—
Balmcr Lawrie	1,629	601	244

'Union of India does not have shareholding in NRL.

Mixture of Ethanol with Petrol

3013. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: .

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed mixing ethanol with petrol;

(b) if so, the details of its advantages; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to prevent possible misuses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The three pilot projects set up by the Govt, for this purpose have proved to be successful and now the Govt, have decided to allow mixing of ethanol with petrol. Modalities for marketing the blended petrol in eight states in first phase are under formulation.

(b) The advantages *inter-alia* include reduction of carbon dioxide and sulphur in the environment, benefit to farmers (sugarcane growers) and distillery owners and earning of foreign exchange to export of surplus petrol.

(c) In order to prevent misuse of ethanol, oil companies have been procuring denatured anhydrous ethanol for the pilot projects.